

Discovery Park Master Plan



Discovery Park is a 534-acre natural area park established in 1972 and operated by the Seattle Parks and Recreation. It is the largest city park in Seattle, and occupies most of the former Fort Lawton site.

The Discovery Park Master Plan and Development Plan guides decisions regarding the development of Discovery Park. It was first drafted in 1972 and updated in 1974 and 1986,

The Master Plan states the role of Discovery Park is to provide an open space of quiet and tranquility away from the stress and activity of the city, a sanctuary for wildlife, as well as an outdoor classroom for people to learn about the natural world.

To meet this goal, the park is intended to be enjoyed primarily by foot and bicycle, with car access reserved for people with special needs or small children.

Maintained in its semi-natural condition, the park will continue to offer a biologically rich and diverse natural area for urban dwellers and an unmatched opportunity for environmental education.



“In summary, Discovery Park is intended to be an open space park with only those facilities and developments, which are absolutely necessary for the enjoyment of the open space, experience. Discovery Park is a “people park” but also a place in which park visitors can find “quiet and tranquility”. It cannot be a “wilderness” in a pure sense of the term but it will be a relatively natural park, a place where visitors can learn to respect their environment as well as enjoy the beauty of nature.”

“The master plan, we believe, lays down guidelines which, if followed faithfully, cannot fail to create on this site a park which will be one of the great urban parks of the world – and a joy to this city forever.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the website:

www.seattle.gov/parks/parkspaces/discoverypark/masterplan.htm

Contact: Patti Petesch, Seattle Parks,
patti.petesch@seattle.gov or 206-615-1803